

[2 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

vegetables have been found to be artificially coloured. Prosecutions in both categories of cases are being launched. The Delhi Government are increasing the number of surprise checks to curtail such mal-practices.

Suspension of LTC facility

*177. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether LTC facility has been discontinued for the Government servants for block year 1998—2001;

(b) whether a large number of the Government servants are yet to avail LTC facility for the said block;

(c) whether a serious discrimination has crept up between the Government servants who have availed opportunity before implementation of the order and those who had not availed the facility by the date; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by Government to restore the LTC facility to eliminate the apparent discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) In pursuance to the Finance Minister's announcement in the Budget for the year 2001-2002, as part of the Expenditure Management Home Town and All India LTC facilities to the Central Government employees except to those who have less than two years service before retirement, have been suspended for a period of two years w.e.f. 2.3.2001. However, personnel of Armed Forces and Central Para-Military Forces and employees posted in the North-Eastern Region including Sikkim have been allowed to avail Home Town LTC.

(b) Under the CSS (LTC) Rules, power to grant LTC vests with the various Ministries/Departments and as such no data in this regard is centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Generally a policy matter is implemented with prospective date. In such a eventuality, there may be cases where Government servants had availed the benefit as per the policy existed at that point of time. In any case, it cannot be said that this is a serious discrimination since the suspension order is uniformly applicable to all Government servants covered by the instructions issued by Department of Personnel & Training dated 2.3.01.

Work permit to migrants from Bangladesh

*178. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering/have decided to give work permit to the migrants from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, particularly, when the local public is facing unemployment; and

(c) the steps taken to enhance employment opportunities in the country with particular reference to the North-Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No Sir. There is no proposal for the grant of work permit to the migrants from Bangladesh.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Ninth Plan has accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The plan has focussed on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Government have also been implementing special programmes for eradication of poverty and generation of employment. The major poverty alleviation programmes, which provide employment in the rural areas, are Swama Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana, Jawahar